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10/600,917	06/20/2003	Frank Liebenow	P1945US00	6906

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EXAMINER

AIRAPETIAN, MILA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment received on 08/07/2006 is acknowledged and entered. The applicant has added claims 32 and 33. Currently, claims 1-33 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claim 20 recites a system including "*a logic configured...*", which is confusing. It is not clear to what extend the term "logic" constitutes a structural element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 8-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warnock et al. (hereinafter Warnock) (WO 01/29732) in view of Kobata et al. (hereinafter Kobata) (US 2002/0082997).

Claim 1. Warnock teaches a method for providing information over a public data network with access control and paid transaction comprising:

downloading a content file in a first data format from a remote server to a first user device for a first cost basis (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26);

granting a capability to use said content file by paying a second cost basis (page 4, lines 22-26).

However, Warnock does not specifically teach that said granting a capability to use said content file by paying a second cost basis includes converting said first format into the second (usable) format.

Kobata teaches controlling and managing digital assets wherein the authorized users can transform (convert) downloaded multimedia files from one format to another for viewing or copying of said multimedia files [0095], [0175].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Warnock to include converting said first format into the second (usable) format, as disclosed in Kobata, because it would advantageously allow

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the customer to download any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files, thereby providing convenience to the user.

Claim 2. Warnock teaches said method wherein the first cost basis is free (page 4, lines 23-25).

Claim 3. Kobata teaches said method wherein the first data format of the content file is different than the data format of the second data format [0095]. The motivation to combine Warnock and Kobata would be downloading any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files.

Claim 4. Kobata teaches said method wherein the second data format is selected from the group consisting of an audio wave and an MP3 [0096]. The motivation to combine Warnock and Kobata would be downloading any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files.

Claim 5. Kobata teaches said method wherein the first data format of the content file is not suitable for playback on a device selected from the group consisting of an audio CD player and an MP3 player ([0095], transforming different formats into *usable* formats indicates that that those formats would not be suitable for playback on a device). The motivation to combine Warnock and Kobata would be downloading any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files. As per "MP3" feature per se, see reasoning applied to claim 4.

Claim 6. Kobata teaches said method wherein the second data format of the content file is encoded for playback on a player equipped to decode the content file

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[0181]. The motivation to combine Warnock and Kobata would be to secure the digital asset during transmission and make efficient user of resources (e.g., network, bandwidth, storage, or memory).

Claim 8. Warnock teaches a system for providing information over a public data network with access control and paid transaction comprising:

means for storing encoded content in a first protected format (downloading a content file in a first data format from a remote server indicates means for storing said content in said first format (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26);

means for decoding the encoded content for playback directly on the audio playback subsystem (page 4, lines 22-26);

means for conducting a payment transaction with a means for receiving payment (Abstract; page 4, lines 22-26).

However, Warnock does not specifically teach means for converting the encoded content into a second format.

Kobata teaches a system for controlling and managing digital assets including means for transforming (converting) downloaded multimedia files from one format to another for viewing or copying of said multimedia files [0095], [0175].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Warnock to include means for converting said first format

into the second (usable) format, as disclosed in Kobata, because it would advantageously allow the customer to download any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files, thereby providing convenience to the user.

Claim 9. Warnock teaches said system wherein the second format comprises an unprotected format suitable for playback (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26).

Claim 10. Warnock teaches said system wherein the means for conducting a payment transaction further comprises means for conducting first and second payment transactions, the first payment transaction enabling the means for decoding to decode the encoded content for playback directly on the system's audio playback system (Abstract; page 8, line 29 – page 9, line 9).

Claim 11. Warnock teaches that second payment transaction enables converting the encoded content to be used for playback (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26). As per “format” feature per se, see reasoning applied to claim 8.

Claim 12. Warnock teaches said system further comprising a means for receiving payment in communication with the means for conducting a payment transaction (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26).

Claim 13. Warnock teaches said system further comprising a content source in communication with the means for storing encoded content (receiving content files at the system's computer indicates receiving said files from a source) (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26).

Claim 14. The necessity to convert the digital file from first format to usable format in Kobata indicates that the first protected format is not suitable for playback directly on the system's audio playback subsystem [0181].

Claim 15. The necessity to convert the digital file from first format to usable format in Kobata indicates that the first protected format is not suitable for playback directly on the system's audio playback subsystem, wherein said playback is conducted on an audio CD player or on an MP3 player [0181].

Claim 16. Warnock teaches said system wherein the system comprises a PC (Fig. 8).

Claim 17. Warnock teaches that the first payment transaction is free (Abstract).

Claim 18. Kobata teaches said system wherein the second format is encoded with a unique identifier such that the second format is suitable for playback only on devices which are equipped with the unique identifier [0181]. The motivation to combine references is to provide security to the system.

Claim 19. Kobata teaches said system wherein the unique identifier is selected from the group consisting of a cryptographic key and a serial number [0181]. The motivation to combine references is to provide security to the system.

Claim 20. Warnock teaches a system for providing information over a public data network with access control and paid transaction comprising:

a memory configured to store encoded content (Abstract, page 4, lines 19-26),

said memory including computer-readable instructions for conducting the following steps:

decoding the encoded content for playback directly on the audio playback subsystem (page 4, lines 22-26);

conducting a payment transaction with a payment receiver (Abstract, page 4, line 22-26);

However, Warnock does not specifically teach converting the encoded content into a second format.

Kobata teaches a system for controlling and managing digital assets including means for transforming (converting) downloaded multimedia files from one format to another for viewing or copying of said multimedia files [0095], [0175].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Warnock to include converting said first format into the second (usable) format, as disclosed in Kobata, because it would advantageously allow the customer to download any type of digital files to the customer's system regardless of the formats of said digital files, thereby providing convenience to the user.

Claim 21. Warnock teaches said system wherein the second format comprises an unprotected format suitable for playback (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26).

Claim 22. Warnock teaches said system wherein the means for conducting a payment transaction further comprises means for conducting first and second payment

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transactions, the first payment transaction enabling the means for decoding to decode the encoded content for playback directly on the system's audio playback system (Abstract; page 8, line 29 – page 9, line 9).

Claim 23. Warnock teaches that second payment transaction enables converting the encoded content to be used for playback (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26). As per “format” feature per se, see reasoning applied to claim 8.

Claim 24. See reasoning applied to claim 20.

Claim 25. Warnock teaches said system further comprising a content source in communication with the means for storing encoded content (receiving content files at the system's computer indicates receiving said files from a source) (Abstract; page 4, lines 19-26).

Claim 26. The necessity to convert the digital file from first format to usable format in Kobata indicates that the first protected format is not suitable for playback directly on the system's audio playback subsystem [0181].

Claim 27. The necessity to convert the digital file from first format to usable format in Kobata indicates that the first protected format is not suitable for playback directly on the system's audio playback subsystem, wherein said playback is conducted on an audio CD player or on an MP3 player [0181].

Claim 28. Warnock teaches said system wherein the system comprises a PC (Fig. 8).

Claim 29. Warnock teaches that the first payment transaction is free (Abstract).

Claim 30. Kobata teaches said system wherein the second format is encoded with a unique identifier such that the second format is suitable for playback only on devices which are equipped with the unique identifier [0181]. The motivation to combine references is to provide security to the system.

Claim 31. Kobata teaches said system wherein the unique identifier is selected from the group consisting of a cryptographic key and a serial number [0181]. The motivation to combine references is to provide security to the system.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Warnock and Kobata, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Cronic (US 20030156719).

Claim 7. The combination of Warnock and Kobata teaches all the limitations of claim 7 except that wherein the second data format of the content file is encoded such that it is suitable for playback on only one audio player.

Cronic teaches a method for delivery of a licensed toolset to a software publisher for creating license-managed software products wherein the software product can run only on a specific machine [0040].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Warnock and Kobata to include that the data format of the content file is encoded such that it is suitable for playback on only one machine, as

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disclosed in Cronic, because it would allow to control use of software for the purpose of limiting or eliminating unauthorized use of software ([0003], Cronic).

Claim 32. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the first data format of the content file is encoded in a manner suitable for playback on said first user device; and

wherein the second data format of the content file is encoded in a manner suitable for playback on one or more devices other than said first user device.

Claim 33. (New) A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the first protected format of the encoded content is suitable for playback on said audio playback subsystem; and

wherein the second format of the encoded content is suitable for playback on one or more devices other than said audio playback subsystem.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed 08/07/2006, with respect to Claim Rejection 35 USC 112 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 10, 17 and 29 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 08/07/2006 with respect to claims 1-31 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the use of term "logic", it is noted that the system claim 20, as currently recited, is directed to a "*logic configured to ...* ", which is nothing more than software or computer-executable instructions. Without reciting a computer configured to perform said functionalities, it is not clear to what extent said instructions represent a structural element.

In response to Applicant's argument that Warnock does not teach features of the claimed invention, it is noted that Warnock teaches: "*allowing a user to review a document while connected to a network*" (page 4, line 19), which indicates *downloading* a document. In order to be able to view a document, it has to be downloaded (transferred) to the user's machine. But when the user wants to copy a document, he has to make a payment. So, by "*prevents the user from downloading*", Warnock reference means preventing from copying the document.

In response to Applicant's argument that Kobata reference does not teach converting content file to a second data format, it is noted that Kobata reference does, in fact, teach said feature. Specifically, Kobata teaches:

[0095] *The viewer module 416 may include software operable to transform different formats of decrypted digital content into usable formats, so that an end-user can manipulate the digital content. For example, usable forms*

may include viewable, copyable, printable, modifiable, hearable, installable, and executable forms.

In response to Applicant's argument that Cronic does not teach that the content file is encoded in a manner suitable for playback on only one audio player, it is noted that Cronic teaches said feature. Specifically, Cronic teaches:

[0040] One of the limitations can even be as restrictive as only allowing the software product 215 to run on a specific machine.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mila Airapetian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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